

First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 18, 2020

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## GREETINGS, GOOD NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(read responsively)

One: Sisters, Brothers, Siblings, we are loved by God.

**Many: The ruler of heaven and earth knows us by name.**

One: God hears and answer our cries for help.

**Many: God shows compassion and kindness to us.**

One: May our lives praise and magnify our great and awesome God.

**Many: We have come to worship the one whose image is imprinted within us.**

**\*OPENING SONG** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #48 verses 1 and 4

## OPENING PRAYER

(read together)

Magnificent and Holy One, we long to know you better. As we make our way in this world, we search for signs that you are with us. Give us a glimpse of your glorious presence, and show us your ways. May our lives ring out the marvelous message of your goodness, mercy, and love. Amen.

## TIME FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG AT HEART

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(read together)

Great Lover of Justice, hear our prayers: called to treat all people equally, we take sides and pick favorites; chosen to be your children, we arrogantly assume others are not so honored; challenged to be examples of faith, we reveal our worst natures to our families and friends.

Forgive us, Giver of Rest. Enable us to stop putting you to the test, so we can open our hypocritical hearts to your healing touch of compassion and hope. As Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has given all for us, may we give ourselves to you - confidently, completely, faithfully. Amen

## SILENCE FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(read responsively)

One: Hear the good news: the One who created goodness and beauty is also the One who shows no partiality, but offers grace and peace to all.

**Many: God has heard our prayers and done the very thing we asked - forgiven us, healed us, restored us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

## \* AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(read together)

We are God's work of art—each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight. We are God's handiwork—woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

We are the church of Jesus Christ—diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

We are the Body of Christ—living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, throughout the world he loved so much.

We are here to be reminded once more who we are, whose we are and what our lives are about. We are here to be uplifted, renewed and empowered to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working in and among us. We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new. Amen.

## GLORIA PATRI

(music only, not sung)

## FOCUS SCRIPTURE Psalm 99

read from *The Message*

**MESSAGE:** “Holy? Yes! Holy!”

Pastor Burtnett

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**

**AFFIRMING OUR GIFTS**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (music only, not sung) Words #44

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (prayed together)

All that we have and all that we are belong to you, God. As we give these gifts and ourselves freely to you, may others know your goodness and your love, through our offerings. Amen.

**\*CLOSING SONG** "Take Time To Be Holy #483 verses 1& 3

**GOING FORTH WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**POSTLUDE**

The Call to Worship, Opening Prayer (adapted) and Offering Prayer of Dedication (adapted) are from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020* edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Words of Assurance are from *Lectionary Liturgies* by Thom M. Shuman. The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from "God's Work of Art," written by the Rev. David Inglis, pastor of Henrietta (NY) United Church of Christ.

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Organist: Liz Reynolds  
Lector: David Burrow  
Worship Leader: Pastor Chris Burtnett

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October Radio Sponsor: Larry and Sandy Person

Birthdays:

You are invited to read the other two lectionary scriptures for today.  
Isa 45:1-7 and Ps 96:1-9,(10-13)

The Missions and Memorial committee will meet at 4:30 pm this coming Tuesday.  
We still need a volunteer to change the sign outdoors from November through April. The sign does not need to be changed once a week. Please let the office know if you can help.

**First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Algona, Iowa**



**"Where No One Is A Stranger"**

315 S. Moore Street – Algona, IA 50511

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